

Attorney Docket No. LWEP:125US
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/711,188
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2006
Date: January 24, 2007

Remarks/Arguments

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 20-27 are allowed.

Objection to Claims 5-12

The Examiner has objected to Claims 5-12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has indicated that Claims 5-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claim 5 to include all the limitations of its base claim, *i.e.*, Claim 1, and there are no other intervening claims. Hence, Claim 5 and all claims dependent therefrom, *i.e.*, Claims 6-12 are now in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 16-19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,482,221 (*Clark*). Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-4 and 16-19 thereby rendering this rejection moot. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is appropriate and respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 13-15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

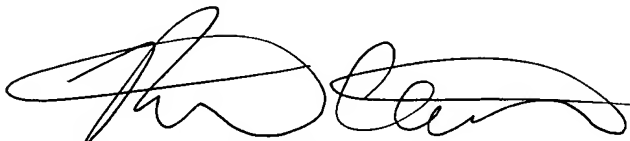
The Examiner has rejected Claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Clark* in view of German Patent No. DE 3607379 (*Franz*). Applicants have cancelled Claims 13-15 thereby rendering this rejection moot. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is appropriate and respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned agent of record if such contact will facilitate an efficient examination and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert C. Atkinson', with a large, stylized initial 'R' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Dated: January 24, 2007

RCA/